Awakening Vocations

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Spiritual Direction Check-Up for Fall 2011
"Spiritual Harvest"

This summer I've been reading lots about sustainable agriculture and thinking about "spiritual harvest." Here is a lovely quote along that line from Gene Logsdon in *Living at Nature's Pace: Farming & the American Dream* (2000) to guide your Fall Check-Up:

> Meadowlarks sing from fenceposts, bluebirds nest in the houses I have set, ... kingbirds sit on the fence wire, ... bobolinks burble and spin, ... barn swallows dart at bugs rising from the grass, field sparrows crouch over nests of eggs at the base of bull thistles. Cowbirds perch on the back of the cow and the sheep, watching for flies. I rake the meadow with my binoculars and gather the whole scene into a spiritual harvest *(p. 206)*.

1. *In what fields have I sown this year?* Was it actual farm fields or rosebeds or vegetable garden? The field of imagination? Fields of relationships, studies, work, creative endeavors?

2. *For the planting:* Where did the seeds come from? How did I prepare the soil? What was the work of actual planting?

3. *For the growing season:* What did I do to nudge the growth along? Was it irrigation or hand-watering? pruning? fertilizing? Was it a difficult but necessary conversation, research, prayer?

4. *What is ready now for the harvest?* What will my act of harvesting look like? What will I leave for the gleaning? And what shall I gather into my spiritual harvest?

My thoughts . . .

What I'm reading now: *Gandhi: An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth* (1957, 1993). I was led to this book through my reading of *Disarmed and Dangerous: The radical lives and times of Daniel and Philip Berrigan* by Murray Polner and Jim O'Grady (1997). Farming sustainably and living nonviolently spiritually go hand-in-hand.

What are you reading right now? Let me know!

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